

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41
By Roach

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Ken Sparks and the 1996 Carson-Newman football team on winning the South Atlantic Conference championship and advancing to the NCAA Division II National Championship Game.

WHEREAS, despite facing strong competition, the Carson-Newman football team has recorded a very memorable season, serving as an inspiration to their many fans, citizens of their community, and everyone who appreciates excellence in athletic contests; and

WHEREAS, Carson-Newman compiled an exceptional 12-2 record, and to the delight of their many fans, captured their fourth consecutive South Atlantic Conference championship, their eighth such title in the last nine years; and

WHEREAS, the Eagles soared to post-regular-season play for the fourteenth time in the last fifteen years, and for the fourth straight year they have advanced to the NCAA Division II playoffs; and

WHEREAS, they advanced to the NCAA Division II title game, marking their eighth appearance in a National Championship Game in school history; and

WHEREAS, Carson-Newman led the NCAA Division II in scoring defense, allowing a stingy average of just over 10 points per game; and

WHEREAS, the Eagles beat ranked opponents Edinboro University, West Georgia, Valdosta State and California Davis; and

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WHEREAS, they posted an unblemished 9-0 record at home, with six regular season wins and three playoff victories; and

WHEREAS, the team was expertly coached by legendary head coach Ken Sparks, the South Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year, and his capable assistants Mike Turner, Jim Deaton, Bill Mitchell, Chuck King, Lester Walls, Mike Whitley, Dan Redding, David Tucker, and Eric Hutchins; and

WHEREAS, thirteen players were selected to the prestigious All South Atlantic Conference Defensive team, including senior linebacker Mike Clowney, who was selected Defensive Player of the Year; and freshman defensive lineman Cedric Killings, who was named Defensive Freshman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Clowney, junior strong safety Jon Jon Simmons and freshman return specialist Jacques Rumph were named to an All-American team. Junior running back Tyrone Westmoreland and sophomore defensive end Courtland Styles were Honorable Mention All-American selections: and

WHEREAS, Clowney and senior offensive lineman Richard Howard were chosen to play in the Snow Bowl, the NCAA Division II All-Star game; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding team is deserving of the unique recognition that this body confers upon a select number of athletic squads; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Ken Sparks and the 1996 Carson-Newman College football team and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to each of the coaches, the school, President Dr. Cordell Maddox, Athletic Director David Barger, the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, the *Standard-Banner* of Jefferson

County, the *Morristown Citizen Tribune* and others, with this final clause omitted from such copies.